



Western Border Interoperability Working Group (WBIWG) - 2013

Background: The Western Border Interoperability Working Group (WBIWG) first met in February 2005 to discuss radio interoperability issues and begin coordination between local, state, Federal and international public safety agencies along the Montana and Canadian border. In January 2006, the WBIWG held its second meeting on the border in Sweet Grass, MT, and continued to dialogue and expand coordination and membership. The third WBIWG meeting took place in April 2007 in Helena, MT, while the fourth meeting was held in Lethbridge, Alberta on April 16, 2008. The group met again in Whitefish, MT on April 21, 2009, and another meeting took place in Regina, SK on Nov. 16, 2010.

The purpose of the group is to provide a platform for federal, tribal, state and provincial coordination of public safety communications and technologies with an emphasis on border areas. The State of Montana shares 545 miles (877 km) of border with three provinces of Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan) which includes 14 border crossings and ports of entry. The state of North Dakota also has actively participated in these meetings.

The Working Groups have allowed for the free flow of communication about Alberta's First Responder Radio Communications System, Montana's Interoperability Montana (IM) Project, a statewide trunked public safety communications system, North Dakota's state radio system and Saskatchewan's Provincial Public Telecommunication Network.

The WBIWG offers the opportunity for planning, dialogue and interface about radio interoperability issues so that Montanan, Canadian and Tribal public safety agencies can better and coordinate with each other. It is anticipated that this working group will continue to provide opportunities for networking, coordination and the establishment of partnerships.

Presenters and technology specialists are expected from Alberta, Montana, North Dakota, and Saskatchewan as well as major United States Federal stakeholders. To read more about WBIWG, please visit this website: <http://pssb.mt.gov/wbiwg/meetings.mcpX>.

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